I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.
...THANKS.
HWOOOOO
...I SUGGEST WE FILL THIS AWKWARD POST-BONDING PAUSE WITH TACO-EATING AND MANGA SMALL TALK.
I CONCUR. SO, BUY ANYTHING INTERESTING TODAY?

15 MINUTES BEFORE THE REVIEWS.
MANGAPOP
...GOT SO DRUNK HE STARTED TALKING TO CURTAINS. SAID THERE WERE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM...
HA! NOW I'M SORRY I BAILED EARLY!
DON'T BE--HE STARTED THROWING UP 10 MINUTES LATER. WE HAD TO GET A TAXI TO GET HIM BACK TO A HOTEL--AND THAT'S WHEN HE HAD THIS LITTLE INCIDENT WITH THE DRIVER...
HA HA
OOOOHH MY GOD, DO I EVEN WANT TO KNOW?
HEY, LIDA! GOT TWO KIDS HERE SAY YOU WANTED TO SEE THEM? CHRISTIE AND BETHANY?
OH! YEAH, YEAH!

I HAVE TO RUN OFF--I'LL SEE YOU AT DINNER.
SEE YA LATER!
HI!
HEY, GUYS! GRAB SOME FLOOR!

HERE IS THE BOOK, WE BOTH SIGNED IT. BETH EVEN DREW A SKETCH INSIDE.
OH, EXCELLENT! THANKS A BUNCH!

DID MARK FIND YOU?
YEAH, HE DID!
UM, COULD I ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS?
SHOOT.
SHOULD I TAKE THE JOB?

...
GRIN
GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE TOUGH ONES, HUH?
OKAY, WHAT'S YOUR SITUATION LIKE?
HER MOM THINKS COMIC ARTIST IS A HOBO JOB.
AHAHA!!
YEAH, I THINK SHE'LL HAVE REAL TROUBLE WITH ME TAKING IT.
COMICS, MANGA, CARTOONS-- IT'S NOT A RESPECTABLE OCCUPATION, TO HER.
SO WAIT, WAIT-- DOES SHE KNOW YOU GUYS ARE AT THIS CON? THOROUGHLY PARTAKING IN THE SIN THAT IS CARTOONS?
WELL, YES...
AND NO...

BEFORE THE CON...
...IT'S AN EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE CULTURE, A FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES OUR NATIONAL DIVERSITY THROUGH THE MERGING OF ART, WRITING AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA.
MOM
LYING LIKE RUGS.
BWAH HA HA HA HA!
I EDITED
I WROTE.
WHICH ONE OF YOU CAME UP WITH THAT?!
AND WE BOTH DELIVERED IT WITH STRAIGHT FACES.
OH, THAT'S PRICELESS...
SO, UM. HOW IS COMICS? AS A JOB, I MEAN?
HMMM.

WELL, FOR STARTERS... YOUR MOM'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT--COMICS ARE NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.
FEW LUCK OUT AND START BIG RIGHT AWAY-- USUALLY YOU HAVE TO SPEND YEARS BUILDING UP A NAME THAT WOULD BRING IN BIG PROJECTS, CLIENTS, JOBS.
I SPENT THREE YEARS LIVING IN MY PARENTS' BASEMENT WHEN I WAS STARTING OUT-- THERE WAS JUST NO WAY I COULD AFFORD TO LIVE ON MY OWN.
THREE YEARS? WOW!
YEP. IT WAS PRETTY DISHEARTENING AT TIMES.
AND WELL, EVEN ONCE YOU DO MAKE IT MORE OR LESS BIG...
IT'S HARD TO KEEP GOING. INCONSISTENT JOB FLOW, SCHEDULE HELL, CREATIVE BLOCKS, FICKLE PUBLIC, HARSH CRITICS, CONSTANT SELF-DOUBT...

THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THINGS-- CONTRACTS AND THE INDUSTRY DRAMA ARE A WHOLE OTHER TALE OF WOE.
AND WHEN THE STRESS GETS TOO MUCH, WELL. NOTHING YOU CAN DO, REALLY, OTHER THAN QUIT AND GET A REAL JOB.
...OR BUY A PUNCHING BAG, A VERY THERAPEUTIC SOLUTION, HEH.

UM... BUT YOU DO LIKE THIS JOB, RIGHT?

I WOULD TRADE IT FOR NOTHING ELSE.

FOR ALL THE OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS OF THIS...
I GET TO MAKE COMICS ALL DAY.
I GET TO CREATE AND THEN HOLD A BOOK IN MY HANDS AND THINK: "I DID THIS. ME."
AND I GET TO HEAR PEOPLE SAY HOW MY WORK WAS A BRIGHT SPOT IN THEIR DAY, HOW IT PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE WHEN THEY NEEDED IT, OR INSPIRED THEM TO CREATE, AS WELL.
IT'S...IT'S NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING.

A SINGLE TEAR ROLLS DOWN MY CHEEK.
EEK!
IS SHE WHINING TO YOU ABOUT THE HARDSHIPS OF THE COMICS CREATOR LIFE?
UM. YES?...
TRAITOR!!
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--CREATORS GOT NOTHING ON EDITORS. IF YOU'RE CHOOSING WHO NOT TO BE, CHOOSE EDITOR.
WE GO GRAY YEARS BEFORE OUR TIME! NOTHING QUITE LIKE CALLING UP THE CREATOR AND ASKING...
"WHERE IS THAT SCRIPT THAT WAS DUE A MONTH AGO?"
"I AM SO TRAGIC AND WRITER-BLOCKED!"
AW, COME ON, THAT WASN'T A MONTH!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT WAS TWO.
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO LET ME FORGET THAT...I EVEN BOUGHT YOU DINNER...
DINNER DON'T GROW BACK THE HAIR I RIPPED OUT WAITING FOR THAT SCRIPT.
WELL, THEN THINK OF ALL THE MONEY I SAVED YOU ON A HAIRCUT!
...
KIDDING! KIDDING!
THIS IS THE ARTIST I WAS TALKING ABOUT, BY THE WAY. IS MARK HERE YET? HE WANTED TO TALK TO HER.
YEAH, I JUST SAW HIM!
COME ON, LET'S CATCH HIM BEFORE THE REVIEWS START.

GOOD LUCK! KNOCK 'IM DEAD!!
I'LL TRY!
HEY, MARK!
HUH? I GOT A COMICS TOO
...
RIP
WHATCHA GOT THERE?
ONE OF YOUR BOOKS. WONDERING IF YOU COULD SIGN IT.
SURE. WHICH ONE IS IT?
NIGHT-BLOOM.
...!
???
I THOUGHT THAT ATROCITY WAS FINALLY OUT OF PRINT
O-OH, I...I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY GOOD
IT'S A CRIME AGAINST THE COMICS ARTFORM.
LET'S BURN IT.
NO, NO...JUST A SIGNATURE IS FINE!!

SATURDAY NIGHT, LINE TO THE J-POP DANCE.
...HA HA, THAT'S SO FUNNY!! DID SHE SIGN IT, THOUGH?
YEAH, EVENTUALLY.
I AM.. SO... JEALOUS!
A JOB WITH MANGAPOP, THAT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!!
ALL THEY TOLD ME WAS TO KEEP WORKING ON ANATOMY AND PERSPECTIVE...
...AND WHY IS THIS LINE TAKING FOREVER?
HEY, DEAN, BABY, FORGET THE STUPID FIRE CODE AND JUST LET US IN ALREADY!!
STOP FLIRTING, YOU SHAMELESS MINX-- I'M ON DUTY!
STAFF
1, 2, 3...
OH MAN, IT'S SO HOT IN THERE!!

OKAY, WE CAN LET SEVEN MORE PEOPLE IN!
WHOO-HOO!!!
I WAIT FOR THIS THING ALL YEAR.
IF ANYONE ASKS— WE DON'T KNOW HER
KNOW WHO?
HEL-LO, PRETTY ANIME BOYS!! MAMA'S IN THE HOUSE!
GLOW STICKS! I GOT GLOW STICKS! DO YOU WANT ONE?
I WANT TWO--I LOVE THOSE!!
DID YOU GET SOME FOR US, TOO?
ARGH, STOP IT WITH THE DISCO CHEESE, YOU DORKS!!!

This is what it should be like.
Being here with friends...
What a difference from last year.
...MY SISTER LOVES THESE THINGS. SHE MAKES ME TAG ALONG.

Oh no.
Oh no no no...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
NO! JUST A LITTLE DIZZY.

!
...

HEY, I'M GONNA GO BACK TO THE HOTEL.
TAP
HUH?! BUT WE JUST GOT HERE!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I'M JUST MORE TIRED THAN I THOUGHT I WAS.
DO YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH?
NAH, THE HOTEL'S JUST ACROSS THE ROAD.
...
HAVE FUN-- I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OKAY?

LEAVING SO SOON?
STAFF
YEAH, IT'S BEEN A LOOOOONG DAY.
WELL, HOPE THE NIGHT IS BETTER! HAVE A GOOD ONE!
YOU TOO!

...
OF ALL THE TIMES FOR THE WEATHERMAN TO BE RIGHT...

SSSHAA
IT'S SUMMER RAIN--MAYBE IT'LL STOP SOON..
I'LL WAIT A FEW MINUTES.

CHAPTER 7

HUFF
HUFF
HUH

GO AWAY!!
HOOONK!

LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU DUMB KID!!!

I'M SORRY.
LEAVE ME ALONE!! PLEASE!!
HEY, BUDDY, STOP BOTHERING HER!!

...DAMN.
...
...I'M SORRY.
.. KIDS. SHEESH!

...YOU'RE A JERK.
I KNOW.
I'M SORRY.
...YOU'RE SOAKED.
SO ARE YOU.
SNF

SORRY...
DON'T.
WHY DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
YOU DIDN'T CALL.

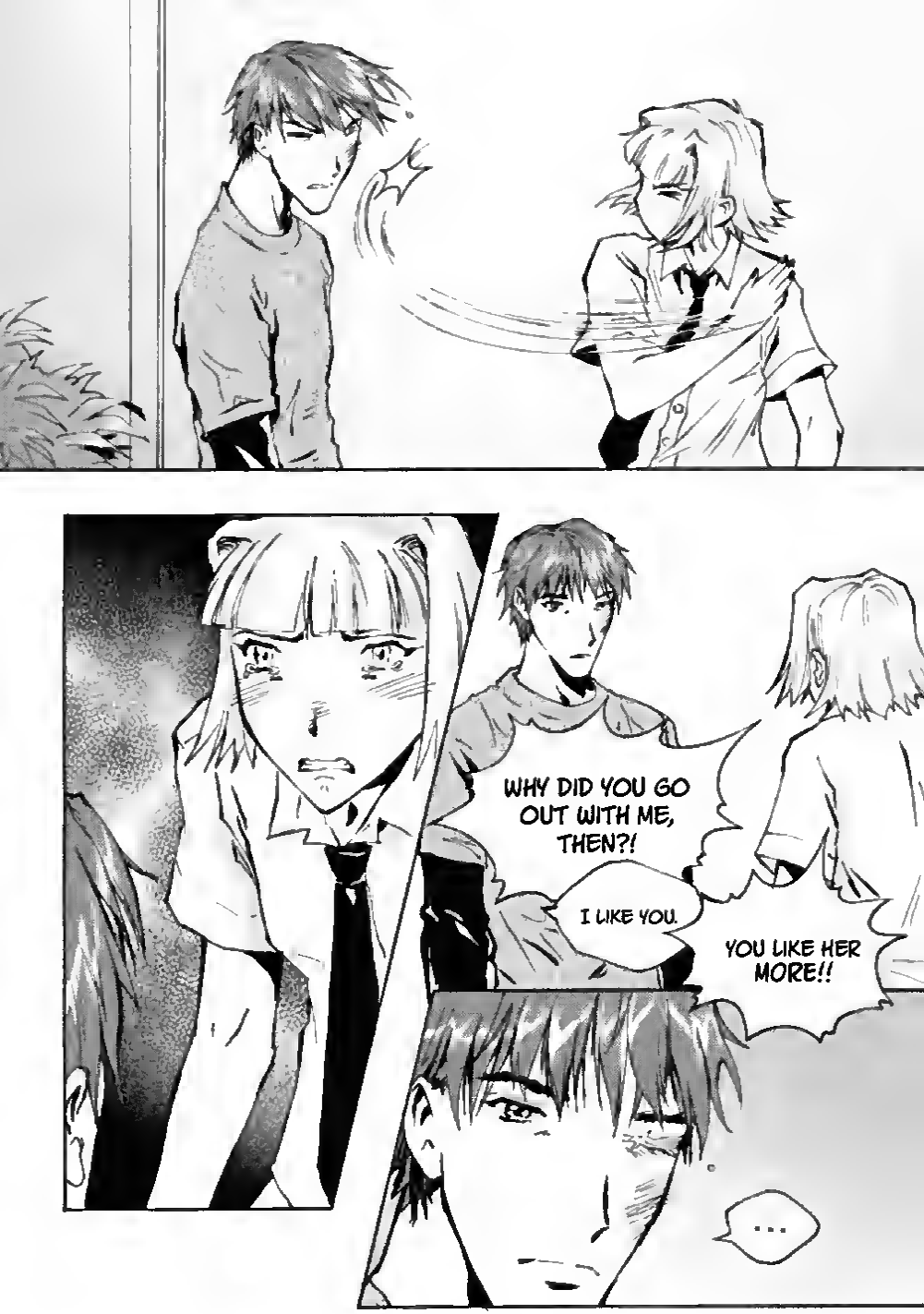
...
I DID CALL. I...
THERE WAS A...
...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT, MATT.

NOTHING ELSE TO SAY.
NOT EVEN A GOODBYE.

WHERE WERE YOU?! I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
...
WE NEED TO TALK.

HEY, HONEY, I'M HOOOOME! I DECIDED TO SKIP OUT EARLY, TOO.
MAN, IT'S REALLY POURING DOWN OUT THERE!
...CHRISS?


WHY DID YOU GO OUT WITH ME, THEN?!
I LIKE YOU.
YOU LIKE HER MORE!!
...

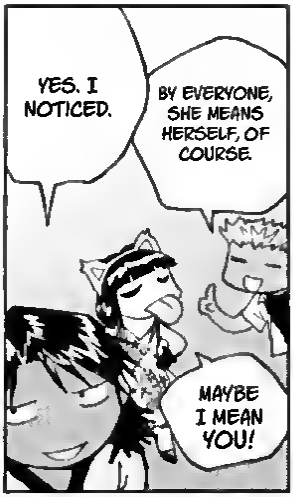
I'LL GET OVER IT.
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!
IT'LL HAVE TO BE.
IF WE WANT TO MAKE THIS WORK.

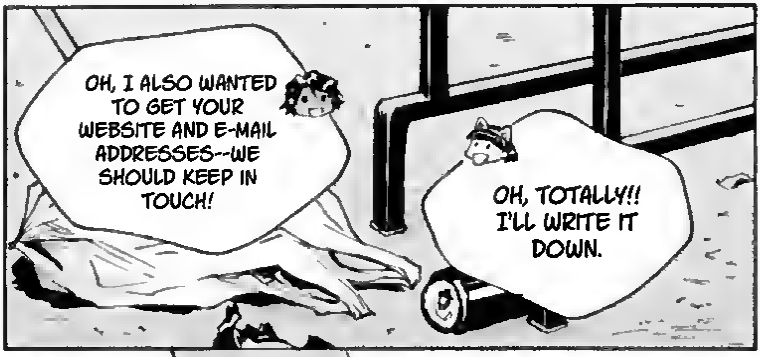
IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
I KNOW.
...

CHIRP
CHIRP
DAYLODGE

OH, HEY, BETH! GOOD MORNING!
BICKER
BICKER
MORNING!
WHERE'S CHRISTIE?
SHE'S KINDA SICK TODAY.
OH NO! IS THAT WHY YOU GUYS DIDN'T COME TO THE PARTY?
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT. SHE'LL BE OKAY, BUT WE DECIDED TO SKIP OUT ON THE CON TODAY.

I JUST CAME BY TO SAY BYE AND TO THROW OUT OUR GARBAGE BAG FROM YESTERDAY.
WOW, SO TIDY! EVERYONE JUST SORTA LEAVES THEIR CRAP LYING AROUND.


YES. I NOTICED.
BY EVERYONE, SHE MEANS HERSELF, OF COURSE.
MAYBE I MEAN YOU!


OH, I ALSO WANTED TO GET YOUR WEBSITE AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES--WE SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH!
OH, TOTALLY!! I'LL WRITE IT DOWN.

MORNING.

OH, HELLO.
COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YESTERDAY WHEN THE MANGAPOP EDITOR CAME BY. HOW DID THE REVIEWS GO? DID YOU GET THE JOB OFFER?
UM, YEAH, I GUESS. WE TALKED A BIT MORE ABOUT IT.
WELL, CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED BY LIDA...
GUESS THE ASS-KISSING DOES PAY OFF.

...!
...WERE YOU GOING TO HIT ME JUST NOW?! ARE YOU CRAZY?

...THERE WAS A BUG ON YOUR FACE. I WAS GOING TO GET IT FOR YOU.
I THINK IT'S STILL THERE--YOU SHOULD REALLY HAVE A GO.
WITH A CHAIR. IT COVERS MORE BITCH AREA--YOU JUST CAN'T MISS.
...!

HERE'S OUR INFO.
HEY, WE SHOULD DO A LINK EXCHANGE FOR OUR SITES!
YEAH! I'LL E-MAIL WHEN WE GET BACK HOME.
YOU'D BETTER!! AND YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO COME TO OUR ROOM PARTY NEXT YEAR!
OK' OK'
DON'T WORRY, NEXT YEAR SHE'LL BE GETTING HER SHOTS BEFORE THE CONVENTION.
CATCH YOU GUYS ONLINE!
BYEEEE! HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
THAT WAS OUR FRIEND YOU WERE HARASSING JUST NOW.
WELCOME TO THE REST OF YOUR DAY IN THE ARTIST ALLEY WITH US.

WHAT A WEEKEND, HUH?
...YEAH.

...YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
YEAH. YOU KNOW ME--I BOUNCE BACK FAST.
MMM.

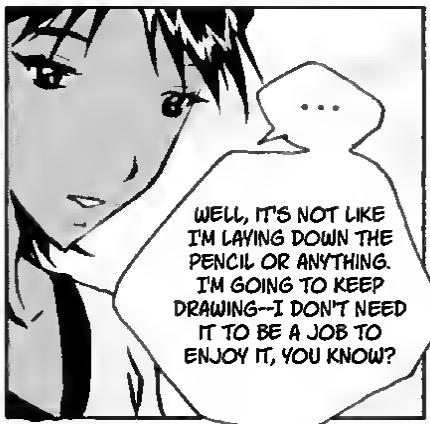
I ALMOST SLAPPED SOMEONE TODAY.
YOU?!
YEAH.
I DIDN'T EVEN APOLOGIZE. NOW I FEEL BAD..
WHO?
ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS--SHE SAID YOU WERE KISSING ASS ON FRIDAY? SHE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
HA!!! OH MAN, I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN THE LOOK ON HER FACE!!!
...
...I MEAN-- OH NO.
BUMMER.
THIS WHOLE "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR" THING IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S WHY I QUIT RELIGION.

QUITTER. YOU'LL BE BACK.
HEH, I DOUBT THAT.
...WHAT?
YOU SMILED. FIRST REAL SMILE SINCE YESTERDAY.

I TOLD YOU-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, SERIOUSLY. I'LL LIVE.
AND WHAT ABOUT--HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK THE MANGAPOP THING TO YOUR MOM?
OH, I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE IT.
WHAT?!! WHY NOT?!!
SEVERAL REASONS.
NAME ONE!

MAINLY, BECAUSE I CAN'T DO THAT TO MY MOM.
...HUH?
YOU HEARD LIDA--COMICS ARE NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING. AND I'VE DONE RESEARCH ON THIS, ACTUALLY...
MANY PROS SAY THE SAME THING. HARD TO BREAK IN, HARD TO GET BY ONCE YOU ARE IN.
AND MY MOM...SHE'S WORKED SOOOO HARD. SO THAT I COULD LIVE IN A GOOD PLACE AND HAVE MONEY FOR MY EDUCATION.

I CAN'T JUST TURN MY BACK ON ALL THAT AND WALTZ OFF TO BE A STARVING ARTIST...
BUT...YOU LOVE DRAWING SO MUCH. WOULDN'T YOU BE TURNING YOUR BACK ON YOURSELF?


...
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M LAYING DOWN THE PENCIL OR ANYTHING. I'M GOING TO KEEP DRAWING--I DON'T NEED IT TO BE A JOB TO ENJOY IT, YOU KNOW?

WE HAVE OUR COMIC. I'LL KEEP WORKING ON THAT.
MARK SAID EVEN IF I DECIDE TO NOT TAKE THIS, THEY'LL KEEP ME ON FILE AND THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN.
COMICS WILL STILL BE THERE AFTER I GET MY DEGREE.
I'LL THINK ABOUT THIS AGAIN IN A FEW YEARS, BUT RIGHT NOW...I'D RATHER NOT RUSH INTO SOMETHING I'M NOT SURE ABOUT.
...I'D VOTE FOR YOU.
HUH?
WHEN YOU RUN FOR PRESIDENT.
...?!
...PRESIDENT? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
HEE.

SO.
YOU'RE GIVING UP YOUR DREAM JOB, I'M GIVING UP MY DREAM GUY...WHAT A CON, HUH?
...WANNA COME BACK NEXT YEAR?
YES.
I WANT TO COSPLAY, TOO.
I SECOND THAT.
...WAIT, WHAT IF YOUR MOM FINDS OUT?
HEY, I'M SETTING ASIDE MY DREAMS AND LIVING UP TO HERS. SHE'S GOING TO HAVE TO COMPROMISE.
YOU PLAN TO HAVE A TALK?
I PLAN TO HAVE A TALK.
...SHOULD I BOOK THE FUNERAL?...
AW, THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE! SHEESH!
HA HA HA

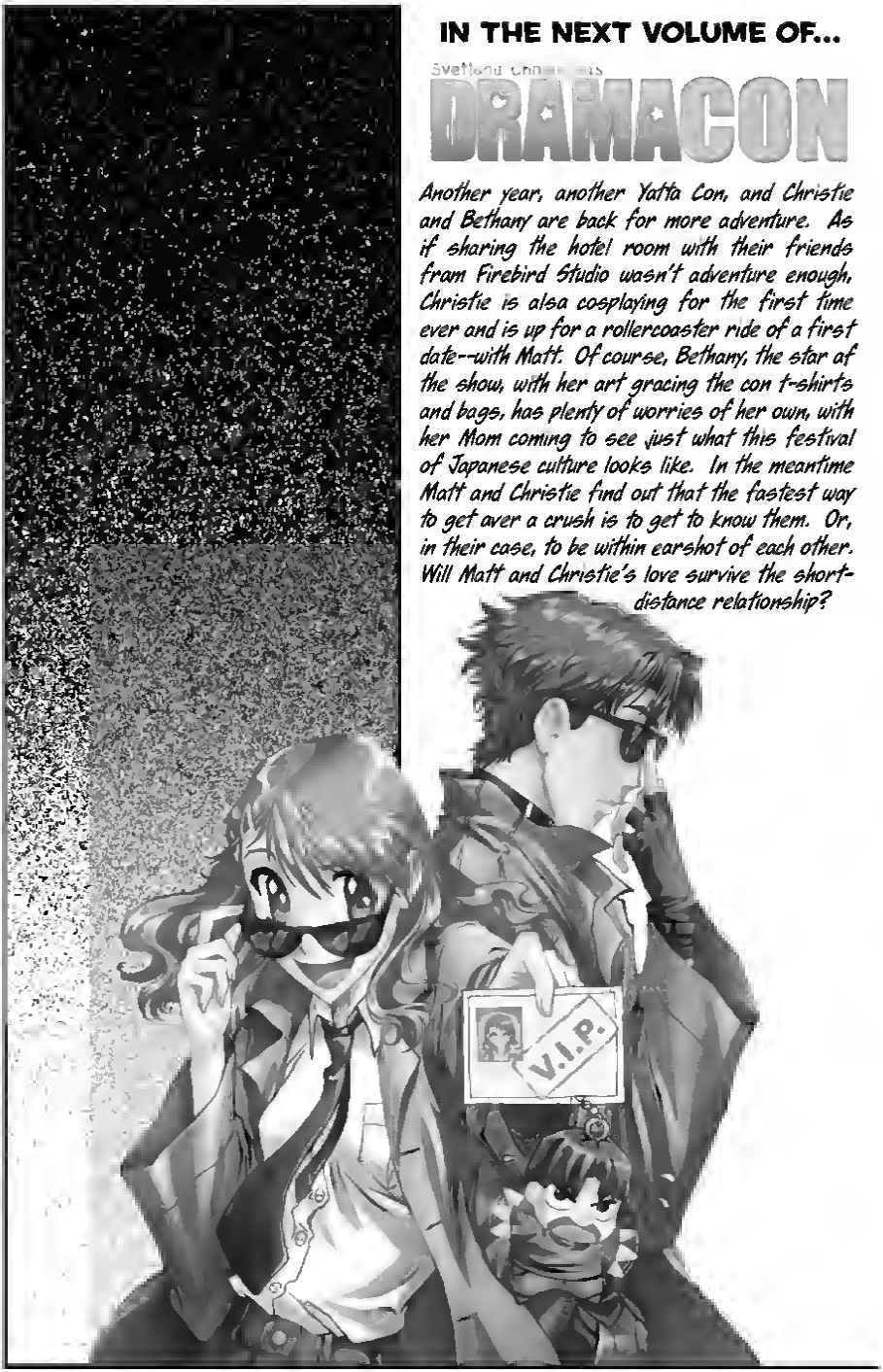
...
YOU KNOW...
HMM?
...PRESIDENTS DON'T COSPLAY, EITHER.
...OKAY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M NOT GONNA BE PRESIDENT!
WELL, NOT WITH THAT ATTITUDE, YOU'RE NOT.
SMACK
OWWW.
YOU JUST TOTALLY LOST MY VOTE...

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF...

Svetlana Chmakova

DRAMACON

Another year, another Yatta Con, and Christie and Bethany are back for more adventure. As if sharing the hotel room with their friends from Firebird Studio wasn't adventure enough, Christie is also cosplaying for the first time ever and is up for a rollercoaster ride of a first date--with Matt. Of course, Bethany, the star of the show, with her art gracing the con t-shirts and bags, has plenty of worries of her own, with her Mom coming to see just what this festival of Japanese culture looks like. In the meantime Matt and Christie find out that the fastest way to get over a crush is to get to know them. Or, in their case, to be within earshot of each other. Will Matt and Christie's love survive the short-distance relationship?



DRAMACON cosplay!

I still can't get over the fact that people are cosplaying as my characters...

THANK YOU!!

Nami and PatrickD as Christie and Matt! They've got the character attitudes down pat, and the costumes, too!!

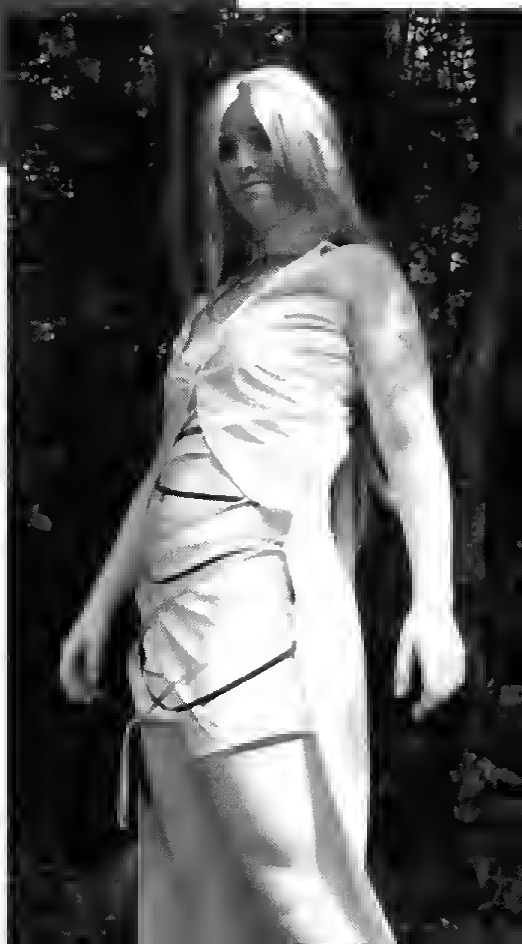
* * *

Kathy is SUCH a gorgeous Sandra, the costume was just so unbelievably good!

* * *

I also saw two Matt cosplayers at Anime Boston and took a picture! But I didn't have a way to contact them and ask permission to put it in the book :: Maybe next time...

See you around and thank you for reading!



THANQ'S

To Dee — who deserves a shrine and then some, for staying up the long hours it took to finish this and for being amazing moral support!!

To Mom and Dad and Sasha — for too many things to count... Bestest family ever ^^

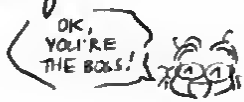
To Lillian — my poor poor editor. Thank you for the patience!!

To my friends — for always being there for me!

To my fans — WOW. So did not expect so many of you to enjoy my stuff ☺ Thank you for all the kind words and for supporting my work!!!

ALSO...

To me. ☺ Thank you, Svet, for not running away to Alaska when the deadlines came fast and fierce ... Now go and get some sleep!



← hasn't slept in days

(If I forgot anyone, I am sorry.. See excuse ↑)

BE WELL, EVERYONE! ♥

TOKYOPOP.com

WHERE MANGA LIVES!

JOIN THE TOKYOPOP COMMUNITY!

Come and preview the hottest manga around!

CREATE...
UPLOAD...
DOWNLOAD...
BLOG...
CHAT...
VOTE...
LIVE!!!!

WWW.TOKYOPOP.COM HAS:

Manga-on-Demand • News
Anime Reviews • Manga Reviews
Movie Reviews • Music Reviews
and more...

THE MANGA REVOLUTION • LEADING • 漫画革命 • THE MANGA REVOLUTION • LEADING

© Queenie Chan and TOKYOPOP Inc. Offbeat © Jennifer Quek and TOKYOPOP Inc.

TRINITY BLOOD

ARMAGEDDON
was only the beginning...

To save the human race,

BLOOD

must be spilled!

In a dark and distant future, Armageddon has given rise to the fabled Second Moon—thus begins a perpetual war between vampires and humans! Esther, a nun, and Abel, a priest and mysteriously powerful agent of the Vatican, join forces to battle the deadliest of evils!

The manga that inspired the hit anime series!

Special Bookmark included in every book!

© Kazuya KUJO and Sunao YOSHIDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.TOKYOPOP.COM

How long would it take to get over...

losing the love of your life?

When Jackie's ex-lover Noah dies, she decides the quickest way to get over her is to hold a personal ritual with Noah's ashes. Jackie consumes the ashes in the form of smoothies for 12 days, hoping the pain will subside. But will that be enough?

From the internationally published illustrator June Kim.

© June Kim and TOKYOPOP Inc.

12 days

ELEMENTAL GELADE VOL. 2

BY MAYUMI AZUMA

A SKY PIRATE MANGA BOUND TO HOOK YOU!

Rookie sky pirate Coud Van Giruet discovers a most unusual bounty: a young girl named Ren who is an "Edel Raid"—a living weapon that lends extraordinary powers to humans. But just as he realizes Ren is a very veluable treesure, she is captured! Can Coud and Arc Aile join forces and rescue her without killing themselves...or each other?

THE MANGA THAT SPARKED THE HIT ANIME!!

PRIEST VOL. 15

BY MIN-WOO HYUNG

THE QUICK AND UNDEAD IN OUT MACABRE MANGA

PRIEST™

Ivan Isaacs was a devoted priest until tragic events set him on a path to Hell. Now, he's back for vengeance! With the priesthood corrupted by demons, black prayers and the undead, Ivan returns with help from the devil Belial. He vows a baptism of blood on his pilgrimage for humanity's redemption

FEATURE FILM IN DEVELOPMENT!

HORROR
OT
OLDER TEEN AGE 16+

© MIN WOO HYUNG · DAIWON C.I. Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.TOKYOPOP.COM

PRESIDENT DAD

BY JU-YEON RHIM

In spite of the kind of dorky title, this book is tremendously fun and stylish. The mix of romance and truly bizarre comedy won me over in a heartbeat. When young Ami's father becomes the new president of South Korea, suddenly she is forced into a limelight that she never looked for and isn't particularly excited about. She's got your typical teenage crushes on pop idols (and a mysterious boy from her past who may be a North Korean spy! Who'd have thought there'd be global politics thrown into a shojo series?!), and more than her fair share of crazy relatives, but now she's also got a super-tough bodyguard who can disguise himself as anyone you can possibly imagine, and the eyes of the nation are upon her! This underrated manhwa totally deserves a second look!

~Lillian Diaz-Pryzbyl, Editor

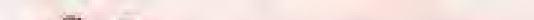
ID_ENTITY

BY HEE-JOON SON AND YOUN-KYUNG KIM

As a fan of online gaming, I've really been enjoying *iD_eNTITY.* Packed with action, intrigue and loads of laughs, *iD_eNTITY* is a raucous romp through a virtual world that's obviously written and illustrated by fellow gamers. Hee-Joon Son and Youn-Kyung Kim utilize gaming's terms and conventions while keeping the story simple and entertaining enough for noobs (a glossary of gaming terms is included in the back). Anyone else out there who has already absorbed *.hack* and is looking for a new gaming adventure to go on would do well to start here.

~Tim Beedle, Editor

President Dad © RHIM JU-YEON, DAIWON C.I. Inc. iD_eNTITY © Hee-Joon Son & Youn-Kyung Kim, HAKSAN PUBLISHING CO., LTD


Brought to you by
Kenchi-scans.blogspot.com